

REMARKS

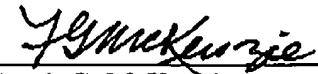
The Office action dated April 21, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto.

Claims 1, 4, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kraps (U.S. 5,876,148) in view of Kincaide et al. (U.S. 6,308,972). Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the stabilizer bar such that it is patentably distinguished over the combination that would result by combining the '148 patent and the '972 patent. Specifically, the body is formed with a circular cylindrical surface, and the spherical bearing is formed with an inner cylindrical surface that extends through the bearing, which is made of a different material than that of the body. The outer surface of the bearing is a convex spherical, the inner surface of the end link is concave spherical and contacts the outer surface of the bearing.

The '148 patent teaches a spherical ball formed on the end of the body 1, and the end link is formed with a cylindrical inner surface. The Office Action acknowledges that the '148 patent fails to show the first end of the end link having a concave spherical inner support surface. The '972 patent was cited for teaching an end link 32 having a concave spherical inner surface 42. The ball stud 52 of the '972 patent is formed with a spherical convex outer surface, whereas Claims 1 and 21 recite that the outer surface above the body, which is comparable to ball stud 52, has a circular cylindrical surface located in the spherical bearing. Further, the ball stud 52 of the '972 patent is unitary and formed entirely of one material, whereas Claims 1 and 21 recite that the spherical bearing is made of a material different from that of the body, i.e., the ball stud.

The claims remaining in the application are patentably distinguished over the prior art references and the combination that would result by combining the cited prior art references. There is no teaching or suggestion in the '148 patent or the '972 patent that a stabilizer bar, as defined by Claims 1 or 21, would result upon combining the disclosures of those patents.

Respectfully submitted,



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